

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

H-02 /077 W

----- 120184

R 230955Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2397

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5088

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, MX, UG, UN

SUBJECT: MEXICAN POSITION REGARDING ENTEBBE RESCUE

REFS: (A) USUN 2846, (B) MEXICO 9066, (C) MEXICO 9293

1. THE GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT BY FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON JULY 14 REGARDING THE MEXICAN POSITION AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE ENTEBBE RADI. BEGIN TEXT: AMBASSADOR EINOR HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO DRAW THE MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S ATTENTION TO MY REMARKS REGARDING THE NOTE DISTRIBUTED BY MEXICO AMONG MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

2. I STRONGLY DISPUTE THE VIEW OF MY MEXICAN COLLEAGUE-- EXEMPTING THE PLO FROM RESPONSIBILITY FOR PALESTINIAN TERRORISM, AND CONSIDERING SATISFACTION OF THE PLO'S POLITICAL DEMANDS AS BEING THE APPROPRIATE MANNER FOR DEALING WITH THE ROOT OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT. THE PLO WAS UNDESERVING OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT'S PROCLAIMED TRUST IN THE PAST, AND PEACE IN THIS REGION WILL NOT BE PROMOTED BY REAFFIRMATION OF THIS EXPRESSION OF TRUST AT THE PRESENT JUNCTURE. THE PLO WAS AND IS THE FRAMEWORK THAT FOSTERED AND CONTINUES TO FOSTER PALESTINIAN TERRORISM IN ALL ITS INTERNATIONAL RAMIFICATIONS. I HAVE DULY NOTED THAT THE MEXICAN NOTE
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DENOUNCES TERRORISM, AND ON THAT THERE IS NO DISPUTE BETWEEN

US.BUT THE FORCED TRANSFORMATION OF TERRORISM INTO THE ANONYMOUS GRANTS IT IMMUNITY THAT COULD BE DESTRUCTIVE TO THOSE DEFENDING THEMSELVES AGAINST IT.

3. AS FOR MY COLLEAGUE ROBLES' STATEMENT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE ON RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, I AM PLEASED TO CONFIRM THAT WE HAD IN FACT AGREED THAT THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE NOT DEPENDENT ON FULL IDENTITY OF OUR POLITICAL POSITIONS. THIS RULE IS TRUE ALSO IN RELATIONS OBTAINING BETWEEN ISRAEL AND OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. BUT I MUST POINT OUT THAT IT IS DESIRABLE THAT WE PROTECT JOINTLY THESE RELATIONS FROM TOO SEVERE TESTS. THE NOTE DISPATCHED BY THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL DENIES ISRAEL'S NATURAL AND LAWFUL RIGHT TO PROTECT ITS CITIZENS AGAINST BRUTAL TERRORISM, AS WAS EXPRESSED IN THE HIJACKING OF THE FRENCH PLANE BY PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS AND THE ACTIVE ASSISTANCE EXTENDED THEM BY THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT--IN HOLDING THE HOSTAGES AND IN THE EXTORTIONIST DEMANDS ADDRESSED TO ISRAEL AND TO OTHER COUNTRIES. END TEXT

3. THE DIRECTOR OF UN POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN MFA (BAROMI) TOLD US GOI WAS SURPRISED AT THE MEXICAN STATEMENT AND FELT IT HAD BEEN UNNECESSARY, "EVEN IN VIEW OF ECHEVERRIA'S CAMPAIGN FOR SECRETARY GENERAL." GIVEN THE EMPHASIS IN THE STATEMENT ON LEGAL POINTS, BAROMI SURMISED IT MAY HAVE BEEN AN INITIATIVE OF FOREIGN MINISTER ROBLES. IN ANY CASE GOI INTENDS TO PLAY DOWN THE STATEMENT; IT HAS NO INTEREST IN A NEW ISRAEL/MEXICAN FOREIGN POLICY INCIDENT.

5. BAROMI SAID MFA WAS AWARE OF THE MEETING REPORTED IN PARA 2 OF REFTEL (C) BETWEEN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY AND PRESIDENT-ELECT LOPEZ PORTILLO. THE MINISTRY'S REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE MEETING WAS CORDIAL BUT CAREFUL AND IT SEES NO REASON FOR ENTHUSIASM. FOR ISRAELI OFFICIALS THE IMPORTANT QUESTION IS WHETHER ECHEVERRIA WILL "FADE AWAY" OR WILL ATTEMPT TO GUIDE LOPEZ PORTILLO IN FOREIGN POLICY AND IN RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, RESCUE OPERATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV05088
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760284-0054
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760725/aaaaawao.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MEXICO 9066, 76 MEXICO 9293
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEXICAN POSITION REGARDING ENTEBBE RESCUE
TAGS: PFOR, IS, MX, UG, XA, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006